

## **PUBLIC AGENDA FOR POSTSECONDARY AND ADULT EDUCATION**

### ***What is Kentucky's Public Agenda for Postsecondary and Adult Education?***

The *Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997* requires the Council on Postsecondary Education to develop a strategic agenda with measurable goals to assess the state's progress in raising the standard of living and quality of life to at least the national average. The current Public Agenda – *Five Questions-One Mission: Better Lives for Kentucky's People* – was approved in 2005 and will guide the Council's work through 2010. The *Council on Postsecondary Education* was one of the first coordinating or governing boards in the nation to implement a comprehensive accountability system for postsecondary education integrated with a statewide Public Agenda. As a result, Kentucky has been considered a leader in postsecondary education accountability and reform for the last decade.

### ***What is the focus of the Public Agenda?***

The Public Agenda is organized around five central policy objectives, stated as questions:

1. Are more Kentuckians ready for postsecondary education?
2. Is Kentucky postsecondary education affordable for its citizens?
3. Do more Kentuckians have certificates and degrees?
4. Are college graduates prepared for life and work in Kentucky?
5. Are Kentucky's people, communities, and economy benefiting?

The questions have evolved over the years to emphasize the importance of maintaining an affordable, accessible postsecondary system that can help Kentucky double the number of bachelor's degree holders by the year 2020. The Public Agenda identifies the key activities and initiatives that will be implemented to move each of these policy objectives forward (the "How We Get to Yes" statements).

### ***How does Kentucky know if postsecondary education is meeting the goals of HB 1 and the Public Agenda?***

The Public Agenda established key indicators of performance to measure progress at the statewide and institution level. The total number of indicators (26) is relatively small to focus attention on the issues most critical to reform. Performance goals are established for each indicator every two years; progress toward 2007-08 goals will be reported this fall, and new goals will be set for 2009-10.

Each year, the Council prepares an accountability report for the Governor, General Assembly, Legislative Research Commission, Strategic Committee on Postsecondary Education, and other constituents. This report uses arrows to highlight performance on statewide and institution key indicators; up arrows indicate improvement over the previous year, down arrows indicate a decline, and horizontal arrows indicate no change. Accountability reports can be downloaded from the Council's Web site at [www.cpe.ky.gov/planning/statusreports](http://www.cpe.ky.gov/planning/statusreports).

### ***Where can I find more information?***

More information about the Public Agenda and key indicators is available at [www.cpe.ky.gov/planning](http://www.cpe.ky.gov/planning).